

Well the club is closed but there is still time for Hand of the Week!

When did you last think about your defence to 1NT! I have seen that most pairs in the club either play simple responses or Landy, where 2♣ shows both the majors. The essence to overcalling 1NT is distribution, and there will be plenty of hands where you have 2 good suits but one or both of them is a minor. After reading an article in the EBU magazine, Martin and I have recently been trying the ASPTRO convention, the basic details are as follows

[1NT]	2♣	Hearts and another suit
	2♦	Spades and another suit
	2♥/2♠	6 card major
	2NT	Both minors

The continuation gets a bit complicated and if you are interested I would suggest reading the article in the EBU magazine. The essence of it is that bidding the next suit is a 'non-forcing relay' responder passes if that is their suit or bids their 5 card suit at the lowest level, support of the major is pre-emptive and to pass, bidding 2NT shows 10-12 points and looking for game in 3NT, and 3 level minor bids show game-going hands with or without support for the major.

It worked well for us in one of the recent Sunday teams matches. I was playing West and South opens 1NT.

♠AJT3
♥KQ4
♦Q9872
♣8

Playing Landy I would not have a bid, but here I was able to overcall 2♦ showing spades and another suit. Martin bid 2♥ which denies ♠- I could pass if I had ♥, but in this case I bid 3♦, my five card suit, which go passed out. This is the full deal:

<p>17 N/-</p>	<p>♠ 9864 ♥ A986 ♦ 5 ♣ QJ75</p>
<p>♠AJT3 ♥KQ4 ♦Q9872 ♣8</p>	<p>♠ KQ2 ♥ J53 ♦ KT64 ♣ 943</p>
<p>7 12 9 12</p>	<p>♠ 75 ♥ T72 ♦ AJ3 ♣ AKT62</p>

On the other tables 1NT got passed out and made for south, whereas we made 3 ♦ comfortably. It is not a massive gain in teams but every little helps! Landy is more straightforward, and if you currently don't have any systems for bidding over 1NT have a talk to partner about your options.